Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 IGA-02 OMB-01 AGR-05

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R 171414Z MAR 76 FM AMEMBASSY MASERU TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5613 INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE AMEMBASSY MBABANE

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: SEDU, EAID, LT SUBJECT: UBLS

REF: (A) STATE 56189, (B) MBABANE 297

- 1. MINISTER OF EDUCATION KOTSOKOANE BRIEFED THE AMBASSADOR ON MARCH 17 ON GOL PLANS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF LESOTHO (NUL). HE SAID THE GOL IS TRYING TO STRENGTHEN EXISTING FACULTIES AND POSSIBLY ADD OTHERS. IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION FOR NUL WILL BE PASSED BY THE CURRENT SESSION OF THE INTERIM NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. KOTSOKOANE SAID THE NATIONAL TEACHERS' TRAINING COLLEGE, THE LESOTHO AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE AND THE LESOTHO TRAINING CENTER WILL BE AFFILIATED WITH THE UNIVERSITY IN AN EFFORT TO UPGRADE MIDDLE-LEVEL MANPOWER. GOL WILL SEND STUDENTS ABROAD FOR GRADUATE TRAINING IN AGRICULTURE AND NOT ATTEMPT TO DEVELOP A FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE AT THIS TIME.
- 2. KOTSOKOANE SAID A COMMITTEE IS WORKING ON A DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR NUL. THIS PLAN WILL BE COMPLETED IN APRIL AND SUBMITTED TO DONORS FOR CONSIDERATION. KOTSOKOANE SAID THE GERMANS, NORWEGIANS, CANADIANS, BRITISH AND OTHERS HAVE ALREADY INDICATED KEEN INTEREST IN PROVIDING ASSISTANCE. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE U.S. WOULD ALSO ASSIST.

3. THE AMBASSADOR TOLD KOTSOKOANE THAT THE U.S. REGRETTED THE BREAKUP OF THE UNIVERSITY. OUR POLICY CALLS FOR COOPERATION. IN THE PAST IT HAD BEEN DIFFICULT TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE FOR UBLS IN THE ABSENCE OF A COST EFFECTIVE PLAN. THE AMBASSADOR TOLD KOTSOKOANE THAT THE U.S. WOULD BE WILLING TO CONSIDER SPECIFIC REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE INDIVIDUALLY OR COLLECTIVELY BUT SUCH ASSISTANCE MUST BE REALISTICALLY GEARED TO MEET DEVELOPMENT NEEDS IN THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED AND SEEN AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF ON-GOING AID PROGRAMS.

4. THE AMBASSADOR ASKED KOTSOKOANE ABOUT GOL ATTITUDE TOWARD COOPERATION WITH BOTSWANA AND SWAZILAND. KOTSOKOANE SAID NUL AS A SEPARAT ENTITY WOULD BE QUITE PREPARED TO COOPERATE WITH BOTSWANA AND SWAZILAND IN SUCH AREAS AS AGRICULTURE, ENGINEERING AND PHARMACY. HE AGREED SEPARATE FACULTIES IN SUCH AREAS WOULD BE QUITE EXPENSIVE FOR THE INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES AND STRESSED THE GOL'S WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE BY SENDING STUDENTS TO BOTSWANA AND SWAZILAND.

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